

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system, method and recording unit for protected copying of material is disclosed. The system includes a compliant preprocessing unit that performs copy-once functionality on material before providing it to a recording unit. The recording unit operates with both compliant and non-compliant preprocessing units or other senders of material for protected copying of the material. It includes at least a primary detector to detect copy-never and copy-once indications in the material, but lacks copy-once functionality including remarking capability. If the recording unit detects a copy-once indication in the received material, it tries to establish a secure channel with the sender of the material. If a secure channel is established, information of the copy-once indication is passed back to sender for appropriate action. If the secure channel is not established, the received material is not copied.

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